

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Original) A system for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective use circumstance by at least one information user; said specified information being owned by at least one information owner; the system comprising:

(a) an information control unit; said information control unit comparing an information use permission request with predetermined information use directions for effecting said administering; said information use permission request identifying at least said specified information and said respective use circumstance; said information use directions including criteria prescribing permitted use of said specified information;

(b) a communication facility coupled with said information control unit for effecting communication with said information control unit to receive said information use permission request from said at least one information user; said information control unit communicating a permitting indicator to said at least one information user using said communication facility when said respective use circumstance conforms with said information use directions for said specified information; and

(c) an information storage unit coupled with at least one of said information control unit and said communication facility for storing said information use directions.

Claim 2. (Original) A system for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 1 wherein said information control unit receives said information use directions from said at least one information owner via said communication facility.

Claim 3. (Original) A system for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 1 wherein respective said information use directions are submitted by a respective submitting information owner of said at least one information owner; said respective

information use directions being stored in said information storage unit associated with each respective submitting information owner.

Claim 4. (Original) A system for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 1 wherein said communication facility effects communication via at least one communication milieu of a plurality of communication milieux.

Claim 5. (Original) A system for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 2 wherein said communication facility effects communication via at least one communication milieu of a plurality of communication milieux.

Claim 6. (Original) A system for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 5 wherein said plurality of communication milieux includes Internet web site data entry.

Claim 7. (Original) A system for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 5 wherein said plurality of communication milieux includes telephone communication using voice over Internet protocol equipment.

Claim 8. (Original) A system for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 5 wherein said plurality of communication milieux includes telephone communication using a public switched telephone network.

Claim 9. (Original) A system for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in

Claim 5 wherein said plurality of communication milieux includes e-mail communication via a network.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective use circumstance by at least one information user; said specified information being owned by at least one information owner; the method comprising the steps of:

(a) in no particular order:

(1) provide providing an information control unit;

(2) provide providing a communication facility coupled with said information control unit; and

(3) provide providing an information storage unit coupled with at least one of said information control unit and said communication facility;

(b) storing predetermined information use directions in said information storage unit;

(c) operating said communication facility to effect communication with said information control unit to receive an information use permission request from said at least one information user; said information use permission request identifying at least said specified information and said respective use circumstance;

(d) operating said information control unit to compare said information use permission request with said predetermined information use directions for effecting said administering; said information use directions including criteria prescribing permitted use of said specified information; and

(e) communicating a permitting indicator to said at least one information user using said communication facility when said respective use circumstance conforms with said information use directions for said specified information.

Claim 11. (Original) A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 10 wherein said information control unit receives said information use directions from said at least one information owner via said communication facility.

Claim 12. (Original) A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 10 wherein respective said information use directions are submitted by a respective submitting information owner of said at least one information owner; said respective information use directions being stored in said information storage unit associated with each respective submitting information owner.

Claim 13. (Original) A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 10 wherein said communication facility effects communication via at least one communication milieu of a plurality of communication milieux.

Claim 14. (Original) A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 11 wherein said communication facility effects communication via at least one communication milieu of a plurality of communication milieux.

Claim 15. (Original) A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective use circumstance by at least one information user; said specified information being owned by at least one information owner; the method comprising the steps of:

(a) establishing predetermined information use directions; said information use directions including use criteria prescribing permitted use of said specified information and identifying criteria identifying a respective said information owner owning said specified information;

(b) receiving an information use permission query from said at least one information user; said information use permission query identifying at least said specified information and said respective use circumstance;

(c) comparing said information use permission query with said information use directions;

(d) providing a permitting indicator to said at least one information user when said respective use circumstance conforms with said information use directions for said specified information.

Claim 16. (Original) A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 15 wherein said information permission use query identifies described information desired for use, and wherein said permitting indicator includes said described information.

Claim 17. (Original) A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 15 wherein information use permission query is received via at least one communication milieu of a plurality of communication milieux.

Claim 18. (Original) A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 16 wherein information use permission query is received via at least one communication milieu of a plurality of communication milieux.

Claim 19. (Original) A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 18 wherein said plurality of communication milieux includes Internet web site data entry and e-mail communication via a network.

Claim 20. (Original) A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 18 wherein said plurality of communication milieux includes telephonic communication; said telephonic communication including at least voice over Internet

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protocol communication, public switched telephone network communication, facsimile communication and wireless telephone communication.